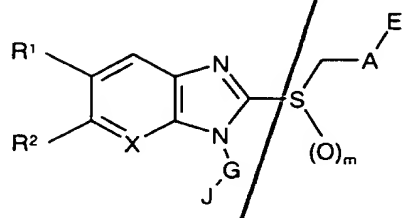
CLAIMS

1. A thiobenzimidazole derivative represented by the following formula (1):



(1)

wherein,

R^1 and R^2, simultaneously or independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trihalomethyl group, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbons or an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbons, or R^1 and R^2 together form $-O-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ or $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, in which the carbons may be substituted with one or a plurality of alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbons;

A represents a single bond, a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbons, a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group having 6 to 11 carbons, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylene group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a plurality of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring, in which the substituent represents a halogen atom, OH, NO_2, CN, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbons, a linear or branched alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbons (the substituents may be joined to each other at adjacent sites via an acetal bond), a linear or branched alkylthio group having 1 to 6 carbons, a linear or branched alkylsulfonyl group having 1 to 6 carbons, a linear or branched acyl group having 1 to 6 carbons, a linear or branched acylamino group having 1 to 6 carbons, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group, or a phenoxy group that may be

substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and in which the substituents may be independently substituted at any one or more sites of the ring or the alkylene group;

E represents $COOR^3$, SO_3R^3, $CONHR^3$, SO_2NHR^3, a tetrazole group, a 5-oxo-1,2,4-oxadiazole group or a 5-oxo-1,2,4-thiadiazole group in which R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbons;

G represents a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbons that may be interrupted with one or a plurality of O, S, SO_2, and NR^3, in which R^3 is as defined above and the substituent represents a halogen atom, OH, NO_2, CN, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbons, a linear or branched alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbons (the substituents may be joined to each other at adjacent sites via an acetal bond), a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, or an oxo group;

m represents an integer of 0 to 2;

when m is 0 and A is a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbons, then J represents a substituted or unsubstituted, linear, cyclic or branched alkyl group having 3 to 6 carbons, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having 7 to 9 carbons, a substituted aryl group having 10 to 11 carbons, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a plurality of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring;

when m is 0 and A is a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group having 6 to 11 carbons or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylene group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a plurality of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring, then J represents a substituted or unsubstituted, linear, cyclic or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbons, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having 6 to 11 carbons, or a

substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a plurality of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring; or

when m is 0 and A is a single bond or when m is 1 or 2, then J represents a substituted or unsubstituted, linear, cyclic or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbons, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having 6 to 11 carbons, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a plurality of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring, in which the substituent represents a halogen atom, OH, NO_2, CN, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbons, a linear or branched alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbons (the substituents may be joined to each other at adjacent sites via an acetal bond), a linear or branched alkylthio group having 1 to 6 carbons, a linear or branched alkylsulfonyl group having 1 to 6 carbons, a linear or branched acyl group having 1 to 6 carbons, a linear or branched acylamino group having 1 to 6 carbons, a substituted or unsubstituted anilide group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group, a $COOR^3$ group, or a phenoxy group that may be substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and in which the substituents may be independently substituted at any one or more sites of the ring or the alkylene group; and

X represents CH or a nitrogen atom;

or a medically acceptable salt thereof (hereinafter referred to as "the thiobenzimidazole derivative of the present invention").

2. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to claim 1 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), A is a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbons, a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group having 6 to 11 carbons, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylene group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a plurality of

oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

3. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to claim 1 or 2 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), A is a substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylene group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a plurality of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

4. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1, 2, and 3 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), m is 1, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1, 2, and 3 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), m is 2, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

6. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1, 2, and 3 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), m is 0, A is a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbons, and J is a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having 7 to 9 carbons, a substituted aryl group having 10 to 11 carbons, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a plurality of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1, 2, and 3 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), m is 0, A is a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group having 6 to 11 carbons or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylene group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a plurality of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring, and J is a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having 6 to 11 carbons or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group having 4 to 10 carbons that may contain one or a

plurality of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur atoms on the ring, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 7 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), G is $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CO-$, $-CH_2CH_2O-$, $-CH_2CONH-$, $-CO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-CH_2SO_2-$, $-CH_2S-$ or $-CH_2CH_2S-$, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

9. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 8 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), R^1 and R^2 simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbons or an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbons, or R^1 and R^2, independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbons, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbons, a trihalomethyl group, a cyano group, or a hydroxy group, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 9 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), E represents COOH or a tetrazole group, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 10 characterized in that, in the above formula (1), X represents CH, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

12. The thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 11 characterized by having an activity of inhibiting human chymase, or a medically acceptable salt thereof.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one thiobenzimidazole derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 12 or a medically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 which is a preventive and/or therapeutic agent of a disease.

15. A preventive and/or therapeutic agent according

to claim 14 wherein said disease is an inflammatory disease, an allergic disease, a disease of respiratory organs, a disease of circulatory organs, or a disease of bone/cartilage metabolism.